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SURVEY OF HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

THE SOCIETY AND THE STATE

During the three months' period ending July 10, 1920, there were twenty-one additions to the membership roll of the State Historical Society. Six persons enrolled as life members, as follows: Frederick Carus, Manitowoc; Harold E. Devereaux, Madison; William M. Gratiot, Mineral Point; John H. Hauberg, Rock Island, Illinois; Leon B. Lamfrom, Milwaukee; and J. F. A. Pyre, Madison.

The following fifteen persons enrolled as annual members of the Society: C. A. Biebler, Shorewood; George M. Blackburn, Starks; Joseph V. Cargill, Milwaukee; Gerrit J. Corscott, Madison; May L. Crosby, Muscoda; Mrs. George W. Dexheimer, Fort Atkinson; J. Q. Emery, Edgerton; Mrs. T. W. Evans, Madison; Richard J. Hennessey, Hayward; Everett C. Hirsch, Park Falls; Charles Lowater, Spring Valley; Olaf M. Nelson, Jr., Madison; Harris R. Randle, Waukesha; Miss Anna Swallow, Janesville; Raymond C. Werner, Wauwatosa.

George G. Greene, one of Wisconsin's best known lawyers, died at his home in Green Bay, May 23, 1920. By his profession Mr. Greene had been repeatedly honored during his fifty-year career at the bar. In 1893 he declined the nomination of the State Bar Association for justice of the supreme court of Wisconsin, and later twice declined appointment to that high office by successive governors of the state. In 1903 he was elected president of the State Bar Association. During his active career Mr. Greene was connected with some of the most important litigation of the state.

James E. Jones of Portage, editor and owner for almost forty years of the Portage *Democrat*, died June 26 after a short illness. Mr. Jones was long prominent in the Democratic party of Wisconsin, serving as delegate to several national conventions and for twelve years as a member of the State Central Committee. He was twice a candidate for Congress, was a member of the State Board of Control during Governor Peck's administration, and postmaster of Portage during the Cleveland administration.

William A. Arnold of Milwaukee, first Socialist sheriff of that county, died at his home in June at the age of sixty-three. Mr. Arnold was one of the pioneers of the Socialist movement in Wisconsin and had been at different times his party's candidate for governor and for mayor of Milwaukee. He was one of the organizers of the Mutual Building and Loan Association and was for twenty-eight years its treasurer. He followed the trade of printer and for many years was foreman of the Western Newspaper Union plant.

Alumni reunions are no novelty in American life, but one held in the town of Dover, Kenosha County, for two years past presents some unusual aspects. The one recently held was the second annual reunion of the "graduates" of an old log schoolhouse which formerly stood near Brighton, Kenosha County. The building was torn down sixty-five years ago; consequently its living graduates have long since attained years of discretion. In 1919 twelve of them gathered to discuss old times and memories. This year they brought their families, and the pleasure of the reunion was heightened thereby.

The village of Shopiere in 1862 gave its most distinguished son, Governor Louis P. Harvey, to the cause of the Union. Fifty-eight years later the little community gave a less prominent but no less worthy son, Corporal Lester Butler, to the holocaust of the World War. In June, 1920, in the shadow of Governor Harvey's stately old homestead, the village dedicated with appropriate ceremony a fine community clock to the memory of Corporal Butler, whose young life went out in the battle of Fismes. This memorial, erected at a cost of \$1,000, was provided by a popular community subscription. Republics are sometimes ungrateful, but not always. In the present case the gratitude of the village to its dead soldier has found fitting and beautiful expression.

Another memorial to a soldier of the World War, a thing at once of beauty and of usefulness, is the fine bridge in the town of Black Wolf on the Oshkosh-Fond du Lac road, which is to be dedicated to the memory of Kurt Graf on July 28. Graf was a member of the 150th Machine Gun Battalion, who died at Chateau Thierry July 28, 1918. The bridge which honors his memory stands near the place where he was born and lived his short life.

One of Wisconsin's "boys in blue" was William W. Kimball of Omro, who in 1863 at the age of thirteen attempted to enlist in the Third Wisconsin Cavalry. Rejected he came back a year later and this time was accepted as a private in the Seventeenth Infantry. He served to the end of the war, being with Sherman on the march to the sea, and in the grand review at Washington in 1865. At the latter date he was a veteran of fifteen summers. Returning home, he undertook the support of his mother and winters resumed his education, first in the Omro High School and later in the Whitewater Normal. He worked in a nursery, on river boats, and at the harness trade; when equipped therefor he began teaching and finally held for nine years the office of county superintendent of schools. He held other county offices, and in 1898, when nearly fifty years of age, took up the study of law, which he practiced until about ten years ago. Since then his time was devoted to looking after his property and to the interests of the Elizabeth B. Davis orphanage, of which he was superintendent.

Such, all too briefly sketched, is the useful life story of one Badger boy in blue who has recently answered to the last great roll call.

The story of Lafayette County's part in the World War is summarized by Patrick H. Conley, chairman of the county's War History Committee, in the Blanchardville *Blade* of June 17, 1920. Mr. Conley has long been secretary of the County Historical Society and custodian of its collections.

Mr. C. H. Crownhart is the author of a series of weekly articles on "North Wisconsin in History and Romance," publication of which was begun by the Superior *Telegram* on May 1, 1920. The region included within the scope of the series is that portion of Wisconsin lying north of a line drawn westward from Green Bay.

Rear Admiral Albert W. Grant was placed on the retirement list of the navy in April by reason of age limitation. Admiral Grant was a native of Maine, but his parents soon removed to Wisconsin and the admiral's boyhood and youth were passed at Stevens Point. From here he was appointed to the Naval Academy in 1873, since which time his life has been spent in the service of the government. During the World War Admiral Grant had command of Battleship Force No. 1 of the Atlantic fleet.

The Racine County Old Settlers' Society was organized in June, 1870, and with the annual meeting of 1920 celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. For many years its meetings were held at different points in the county, but twelve years ago the picnic ground at Union Grove became its permanent home. The success of the Society for the last twenty-one years has been due in large measure to the efforts of J. S. Blakey of Union Grove, who has been its president during this period. At a meeting of the directors in May, Mr. Blakey asked to be relieved from office and further responsibility. Instead, the directors proceeded to elect him president of the society for life.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Waukesha County Historical Society was held at Waukesha on May 6, 1920. Aside from social features and the transaction of business three considerable historical papers were read. Rev. R. A. Barnes of Madison gave a biographical sketch of his father, Porter P. Barnes, who was a pioneer settler of this vicinity; John L. Gasper gave his "Reminiscences of Prairieville and Early Waukesha"; and J. H. A. Lacher, custodian of the society's museum, read a paper on "The Value of Historical Collections."

On April 19, 1920 Mrs. Eliza Loring Nye died in her ninety-third year. Mrs. Nye was a native of Maine, who in early married life came with her husband and two children to Wisconsin, settling in the Kinnickinnic Valley in the vicinity of River Falls in the year 1855. Although much of her life was passed under the primitive conditions characteristic of the frontier, Mrs. Nye was keen to take advantage, both for herself and for her children, of all possible opportunities for reading and educa-

tion. What manner of woman she was is best shown by the careers of the children she gave to the world. One of them is now a judge, another was formerly a member of Congress for Minnesota, and the third, Edgar Nye, was the noted humorist known to the world as "Bill Nye."

The sixty-fifth anniversary of the Freier Saengerbund of Manitowoc, which is said to be Wisconsin's oldest singing organization, was appropriately celebrated in June. The society was incorporated fifty-eight years ago and for many years played a prominent rôle in the social and cultural life of the community. In more recent years it has suffered a decline and some fear is expressed by members that its days are numbered, because of lack of new blood. Until a few months ago the society still retained one of its charter members, Mr. John Schuette of Manitowoc. The organization has a notable record for patriotism, which was told by Judge Emil Baensch in the issue of this magazine for September, 1918. On the very day the news of the outbreak of actual war between the North and the South reached Manitowoc, April 19, 1861, four members of the society enlisted for the service of their country. Others followed their example until in time twenty-six, one-half of the active membership of the society, were serving in the ranks of the Union armies. The character of this service is sufficiently indicated by the remarkable record of promotions they won. Out of the ranks of Manitowoc's Free Singers went one major general, one major, one surgeon, four captains, and ten lieutenants. It need hardly be stated that the descendants of such sires as these were not found wanting when our country was drawn into the World War. An organization with such a record as this one has should not be permitted to die.

In our last issue mention was made of the Great War diary of Gaylord Bradley of Mauston, which is being published serially in the *Mauston Chronicle*. It presents a fascinating picture of the life and mind of this American soldier who gave his all to his country on the bloody fields of France. We venture to share with the readers of this magazine one of the the daily entries. The one chosen might easily be matched for interest by many others. The reader should understand that Bradley was a musician, whose duty in time of action was to serve as carrier of the wounded.

"Sunday, Aug. 4, 1918

"Sunday—God—was it yesterday we went out to that Hell? A slaughter house of the Devil. We got out there about four kilometers and after getting four patients brot them back to where the ambulance was to wait for us—and they were gone! So we took them about a kilometer down the road for the shells were falling thick all around us. After waiting for what seemed an age an ambulance came and we sent the men in and started for the front again. When about half way back we met a group of wounded and were stalled for they wanted and needed first aid badly. Before I came up that far Dressel came out of the woods, and when I got there a station was in working order and working order

it was for with only Hilton there, Needles, Selbrede and I were forced into surgical service. From then on it was terrible. We dressed bullet and shrapnel wounds and took care of gas and shell-shocked patients that came in in droves. Early in the evening Major Merrill came in, gassed, and then officers and men until at one time we had over a hundred men there in the road. Then happened one of the worst things that could have happened—the ambulances stopped coming. No stretchers, no ambulances, and men lay shot to pieces, dying, in the road, groaning and crying, begging us to do something for them, even to shoot them; but we were helpless. After giving them first aid we were powerless to do any more and the shell-shocked patients made an inferno even worse for when the shells would break near, throwing iron, rock and mud on us they would jump from the ground shaking and gibbering idiotically, their mouths hanging open and eyes bulging, powerless to control themselves. During the first part of the afternoon both Curry and Regner were out of the game with shell shock, also Garfield. Curry put up a plucky fight and controlled himself wonderfully well but was unable to help. Altogether it was pitiful. The men one would least expect to show up good (Selly for instance) were the ones who showed up best and the big healthy fellows, the ones who made the most noise, were the ones who never showed up at all. Scared—I was half dead with fright, but it only bothered when we weren't busy, while we were working I did not even hear it. And Hilton—a soldier all the way thru. I can't say any more for him, nor too much. He was a wonder. Three times a German plane painted to look like a French plane, gave the artillery our range and we were forced to move those hundred patients—twenty of them litter patients which we moved first, then helped the leg and arm men, then the shell-shocked and gassed, and unless you have carried a full grown man a mile or so you can't appreciate what that means. One man, horribly mutilated, kept begging us to shoot him and we were forced to move him down the road away from the rest, also shell-shocked for they were driving both us and the other patients crazy. Clayton Betts brot in some men once and I only had time to say 'Are you all right?' and then move on to work. However, Homer Underwood came in later, shell-shocked, crying like a baby. His whole squad was killed. After he sat down and I had a few minutes I sat with him, quieting him and doing what I could for him. Soon he was able to control himself. Finally after many unavailing attempts to have them send an ambulance out, we started carrying them back ourselves, at last reaching the place where Jack and the rest of the fellows were. Jack then helped us. Before we moved them however we had two gas alarms and were forced to work frantically to get masks on the patients—this before we could put our own on and as a result we are all slightly burned in our lungs, not seriously tho. We eventually stopped at 'the hole' and could go no farther for we were all exhausted. All our efforts to get help from companies returning from the front were of no avail—they flatly refused. Then it began to rain and there we were. The men lying on the ground, wet and cold and no way to get them back to the town.

Helpless? We were all of us ready to break down and cry. It was awful to see them suffer, to hear them beg us to help and be unable to do any more. Finally at about one o'clock in the morning, after lying out for eight hours, Capt. Mitchell from Co. H, 127th, came by with his men and we appealed to him. Immediately he ordered his men to throw down their packs and carry the patients the remaining three miles and a half thru the mud and rain. Relief—it took a thousand years off our minds and we started into town to get some rest. The 'hole' crowd came out then and went back for the much needed rest. We got in at 3:00 a.m. and fell on the floor to sleep—my hands, face and clothes covered with blood and slime—too tired to care. Today all we've done is rest and even yet I haven't relaxed. I only pray they will let us sleep tonight. They shelled this town all day and probably will all nite to nite."

THE DEWEY PAPERS

In the *Proceedings* for 1918 it was announced that the papers of Nelson Dewey, first governor of the state, had been received by the Society. These papers have now been sorted, arranged, and made available for consultation. It is deeply to be regretted that Governor Dewey did not see fit to preserve his personal and political correspondence with the same care that he bestowed upon his business papers. The collection that has come to the Society consists almost wholly of papers of the latter nature. Since Dewey was one of the largest land owners of Grant County, as well as agent for a number of eastern speculators in western lands, these papers have considerable economic value. Among them are a large number of original parchment title deeds to government land issued by the General Land Office, signed by the presidents from Andrew Jackson to Franklin Pierce. There are also title deeds to the "Sixteenth Section" or school lands issued by all the territorial governors. The chronological stretch of the papers is from 1833 to 1889, the year of Dewey's death; the bulk of them, however, relates to the period before the Civil War and illustrates the activities of a large Wisconsin land owner and lead miner. Governor Dewey was sole administrator of the estate of the Honorable Ben C. Eastman, congressman from southwest Wisconsin from 1851 to 1855. One of the letters to Eastman, written in December, 1854 by Mason C. Darling, outlines the plan by which the Fox-Wisconsin Improvement Company secured its land grant from the Thirty-third Congress. The other Eastman papers relate to the management and settlement of his estate and are typical of the land transactions of the early days of Wisconsin history. There are among them receipts of the Mineral Point land office, land transfers in considerable number, plats of towns, arrangements for ferries, leases of mineral lands, and inventories of personal property.

In Dewey's day-book for 1839 are the receipts for building the first schoolhouse at Lancaster; among the papers also is the charter of incorporation of Platteville Academy, the forerunner of the present Normal at that place. There are also Dewey's commissions as justice of the peace, militia inspector, and master in chancery, signed by every one

of the territorial governors; his certificate of admission to the bar signed by Judge Charles Dunn, of the territorial supreme court; and his certificate of election to the territorial legislature of 1840. Among the miscellaneous receipts are those of editors and proprietors of Wisconsin newspapers, bills of freight for Mississippi steamboats, and exchange for territorial scrip which in 1840 brought \$21 for \$26.34. Sixteen small volumes of the governor's diary, extending from 1854 to 1889 with many gaps, are included in the collection. These would be more valuable had their writer made more extended daily entries than he did. For the most part he records merely where he passed the day, e. g., "This day at Platteville," the weather, and a few family items. The manuscripts of Governor Dewey's messages to the legislature during his term of office close the collection. Considering the political and social prominence of Governor Dewey, his papers are not of as great historical value as might have been expected. Nevertheless, it is fortunate that they have been rescued from destruction.

THE BAKER PAPERS

One of the most notable manuscript accessions of recent years is the gift to the Society of the papers of the Honorable Charles M. Baker of Lake Geneva, a member of the first convention for drawing a state constitution, and a man of influence, probity, and weight in Wisconsin affairs for over a third of a century. The papers range in time from 1835 to 1872. With one notable exception, however, the collection ends with the close of the Civil War.

Judge Baker was of the New England tradition, although he was born October 18, 1804, in New York City, of parents who were natives of New Jersey. In early childhood he removed to Vermont, where he grew up and was educated at Middlebury College, and whence in 1838 he removed to Wisconsin. Before this latter event, however, young Baker had studied law in Troy, New York, and had there formed a partnership with Henry M. Strong, brother of Marshall M. Strong later of Racine. Upon his marriage in 1829 Mr. Baker settled at Seneca Falls, and there in 1835 young Marshall Strong sought out his brother's whilom partner with the idea of entering his law office and remaining for some time. On what slight events the door of destiny swings! Marshall Strong arrived in Seneca Falls by canal boat and found his prospective patron Charles M. Baker absent. Looking around the town Strong decided not to stay and shortly thereafter turned his footsteps to the new territory of Wisconsin, where he made his ultimate home. Baker, in the meanwhile, his health failing, returned to his early home in Vermont, whence he wrote to Strong for a description of his new environment. Strong's account, which was very favorable and led to Baker's own emigration, is one of the early letters of this collection. In it Wisconsin is represented as healthful to an extraordinary degree. "For some reason the atmosphere is more pure than at the East, and you can see objects at a greater distance." The lands are divided into "oak openings" and stretches of timber; the territory contains 3,500 or 4,000

inhabitants, largely from New England and New York; "they are enterprising, intelligent, moral—there are 8 common schools in this [Racine] county to my knowledge—they are the most temperate community I have ever fallen amongst. We have preaching every Sunday at our village alternately by a methodist and a presbyterian minister." Lured by such prospects the Baker family left Vermont in the early autumn of 1838, and having found no place in the new territory more beautiful or more to their taste than the shores of Lake Geneva, they settled there and made it their permanent home. There young Baker opened a law office, one of the earliest established in Walworth County.

The community in which he settled was poor, but full of hopefulness, land hungry, and industrious, cheerful in the face of difficulties, buoyed by a supreme optimism. Mr. Baker was soon found trustworthy and became the advisor of this community; to his office were brought the tangles and trials that beset the pioneers. Before long he was chosen district attorney for the southern district of the territory. Wisconsin was still unorganized politically. In 1839 John Catlin, then secretary of the territory, wrote to Mr. Baker that there were no party lines. In 1841, however, the Democrats effected an organization with which Mr. Baker at once allied himself. On their ticket he was the next year elected to the territorial council, of which he remained a member until 1846. In this year he was elected delegate to the first constitutional convention. At the convention Mr. Baker was a useful, hard-working member. His legal ability was recognized by appointing him chairman of the committee on judiciary. Among his papers is the manuscript draft of the provision, later incorporated into the constitution, for an elective judiciary.

During the campaign for the ratification of the constitution Mr. Baker was one of its "friends," strongly advocating its adoption. In this policy he opposed that of his early acquaintance, Marshall M. Strong, who worked indefatigably against its acceptance. When it was finally rejected Mr. Baker took no part in the preparation of the new constitution, which ultimately became the fundamental law of the state; this, however, embodied many of the democratic features of the first constitution, notably the election of judges, for which Mr. Baker was so largely responsible. After statehood was attained Mr. Baker was chosen with two others to prepare and publish the first code of *Revised Statutes* for the new commonwealth—a difficult task, ably performed. In 1856 Mr. Baker was appointed circuit judge by the governor to fill an unexpired term. Although much importuned he refused at the end of his term to stand for reelection and retired from the bench to private practice. In that he continued until the Civil War, during the last two years of which he was draft commissioner for the southern district of the state.

Except for a brief interval in 1850, when the Bakers lived at Madison, and another during the Civil War, when they made their home in Milwaukee, their residence was always at the village of Lake Geneva. There was no man in Walworth County more respected and honored;

none whose connections were wider or of more repute. The bulk of his correspondence was legal, dealing with collections, mortgages, bankruptcy, pensions, land titles, and claims. His advice was sought, however, by the party leaders—Democratic until 1856, after that Republican, when Judge Baker allied himself with the new party opposed to the further extension of slavery. Among the letters appear the signatures of such men of prominence as John Fox Potter (later known as "Bowie Knife" Potter), George Wallace Jones, George P. Delaplaine, Moses M. Strong, D. A. J. Upham, Josiah Noonan, Morgan L. Martin, C. Latham Sholes, B. B. Cary, and Matt Carpenter. Every territorial and state governor until the close of the Civil War and such legal authorities as E. V. Whiton, David Noggle, Levi Hubbell, William P. Lyon, and E. G. Ryan were Mr. Baker's correspondents. Were it desired, almost a complete set of signers of the first constitution could be derived from these papers. For the territorial and early state period they constitute almost a compendium of famous Wisconsin men.

The subjects with which they deal are almost as numerous as their writers; religious and social conditions, political affiliations and intrigue, business methods and morals, agriculture and land speculations, the beginnings of roads and railroads, inventions and scientific progress, the growth of education and reform—all these and many other phases of our early history are glimpsed in these letters. At first connected with the Baptists, later Judge Baker became a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church with many of whose early missionaries and ministers he corresponded. Educationally he was interested in Geneva Academy, Beloit College, and the Delavan School for the Deaf. Several letters and circulars from the early superintendents of public instruction, Azel P. Ladd and Lyman C. Draper, have an antiquarian interest; one issued in 1849 on behalf of the state university requesting objects for its "cabinet" or museum is a rare pamphlet. During his term as revisor of statutes Judge Baker came into intimate contact with some of the early printers and editors of the state. He was also appointed by the territorial legislature of 1844 to buy books for the territorial state library with an appropriation therefor of three hundred dollars. Among the reform movements that had his sympathy were the temperance agitation, which was very active in the early fifties, when an attempt was made to introduce the "Maine law" into Wisconsin; and the antislavery movement to whose Kansas funds he contributed; he appears also to have voted in 1856 for "Fremont and Freedom," as urged to do by circulars and letters found in this collection.

Among the business papers those are most interesting that deal with early speculation in wheat, and its purchase and export from Racine and Kenosha, then Southport. Prices were governed by the sales in Buffalo and the shifting of freight rates on the lake steamers; they ranged from sixty cents a bushel to one dollar and thirty-five—the highest quotation in 1859. Among other prices, butter at fourteen cents attracts our notice; while as for wages, a good lumberman received in 1846 sixteen dollars a month; a teacher in 1844 offered his services for a twelve-weeks' term for twenty dollars and board. Wisconsin as a

debtor community dependent upon Eastern investors appears largely in these papers. Baker's business consisted in great part of agencies for such investors (one of whom was Horatio Seymour of New York) for debt collection houses, and in foreclosures of overdue mortgages. Interest rates were ruinous; twelve per cent was usual; in time of scarcity money was held at six per cent a month. No wonder young merchants and other debtors were obliged to take advantage of the bankruptcy law.

The first interest of the pioneers of Wisconsin was in land, the second in means of transportation. Mr. Baker early became a promoter of railways, and a considerable chapter on the financing of our first railways may be written from the material in these papers. The eager efforts of the several communities to secure a railroad, their local competitions, the farm mortgages issued by the agricultural communities, the efforts for combination, for legislative aid, the scramble for land grants, the difficulties over rights of way—all these features of early railway building are exemplified in this collection. In 1870 there is another set of papers concerning the State Line and Union Railroad of which Mr. Baker was president. This road was ultimately purchased by the Chicago and Northwestern. These papers show a more advanced stage of railway operations; the correspondence is with men of importance in the transportation world. It is interesting to learn that it was proposed to iron the road with English rails, shipped from Liverpool to New Orleans, thence via the Mississippi to some river port.

For political history the Baker papers are most useful during the territorial period and the earliest years of statehood. It was in those years that Mr. Baker held office and was intimately connected with the government. He was then recognized not only as one of the leaders of the Wisconsin bar, but as a political power of importance in the southern portion of the territory. Strongly Democratic in his allegiance, he had little affiliation with the Doty and Tallmadge faction of the territorial government; indeed he lost his office as district attorney in the Whig overturn of 1842-43. One of the most interesting letters of the collection is from Henry Dodge, then territorial delegate, commenting on Doty's methods with the legislature and his "pull" with the federal administration. Comment on Tallmadge's régime is somewhat less acrimonious, but in no wise friendly. One interesting bypath of political history is the small Dodge boom in 1852 for the presidency.

While Mr. Baker was in the territorial council he received many letters from his constituency attempting to influence or to dictate his action. This shows how in a small community, practically homogeneous, direct democracy can exist under the form of representative government. Mr. Baker's constituents did not hesitate to tell him that they expected him to vote in accordance with their wishes and interests. It was assumed in the legislature he was there to get what they wanted.

For the convention period of the territory the material is interesting. During the progress of the convention Mr. Baker received letters of criticism; and he himself wrote to his family an account of the conven-

tion's progress. Some political enemy attempted to accuse Mr. Baker of Sabbath breaking because he met with several members of a committee in an informal discussion on that holy day. During the ratification campaign Mr. Baker received many letters from the friends of the constitution. One of these accused the anticonstitution faction of using money in Milwaukee to defeat its adoption. Edward G. Ryan, the chief supporter of the first constitution, wrote several times to Mr. Baker on the issues involved. The delegates to the convention received their pay in scrip, which—so low was territorial credit—could not be passed even at a large discount.

The second convention held and the new constitution adopted, the bulk of the papers for 1848 and 1849 relate to the new code of which Mr. Baker was a revisor. He wrote during that time for the New York and Louisiana laws. The problem of printing, however, was the vexed question. The contract for this was a coveted political plum, which was finally secured by C. Latham Sholes. Having no facilities for so large an enterprise, Sholes arranged with an Albany firm for the printing. He, however, directed Mr. Baker, who spent a winter at the capital of New York assisting in the production, to have the title-page read "Southport, Wisconsin," which it does to this day. The contract, supposedly so favorable to Mr. Sholes, in fact caused him considerable loss. He was finally assisted by an additional appropriation upon which he honorably discharged all his debt to Mr. Baker, leaving nothing for himself from the wreck, except an unsaleable number of unbound statutes.

For the period of the fifties, the political material is less both in amount and in importance than for the preceding decade. There are some letters on the Barstow-Bashford controversy, in which Mr. Baker and his friends sided with Governor Barstow. The treasurer's defalcation of 1856 is noted; and there is comment on Matt Carpenter's ante-war career. As the Civil War approached the letters speak with enthusiasm of Lincoln as the "man of the hour." After the firing on Sumter communities were a "blaze of patriotic feeling." It is interesting to the members of our Society to learn that Dr. Draper, its secretary in 1861, wrote to Mr. Baker one week after the commencement of the war that he desired to go out with the Wisconsin troops in some capacity that would enable him to collect materials for a *History of Wisconsin Volunteers*. It had been suggested that he go as division or brigade inspector or as paymaster for Wisconsin troops and he bespeaks Mr. Baker's recommendation for such an office—for which, as we know, he failed to receive the appointment. One cannot but speculate upon the wealth of materials which he might so easily have obtained had he been permitted to carry out his plan—materials, the remnants of which the Society is still collecting by slow and difficult processes.

For war materials in the Baker papers we are indebted principally to his correspondents in the field, one of whom was a baker who described the bread machine with which he turned out vast quantities of loaves daily. One of the letters gives an apparently unpublished anecdote

dote of Col. Halbert E. Paine, who was arrested because he refused "to deliver up a panting bleeding iron-collared slave who had sought refuge within the lines of his Regt. from the brutality of a Rebel master; Col. Pain choosing rather to obey the Law of Congress and of Humanity rather than the orders of a Pro-Slavery General and take the consequences." It is also interesting to note that an Eastern investor writes in 1863 that "greenbacks" were worth only fifty cents on the dollar and that he does not believe that government will ever redeem them. One of Mr. Baker's correspondents comments on the amount of southern sympathy in the southwestern part of the state. On the other hand an ardent government supporter proposed that party politics be suspended, all nominations be made nonpartisan, and of men who would stand by the administration. Even as early as 1862 speculation and speculation in war contracts received comment; and at its close the number of lawyers who embarked in the profitable business of war claims was noticeable. One of Mr. Baker's correspondents took a government lease of a plantation in the recovered part of Tennessee. His discussion of terms and profits as well as of the abilities of his freedmen employees throws an interesting sidelight on war economics. Another letter described the Northwestern Sanitary Fair held in the autumn of 1863 at Chicago as "a great occasion & the Master? spirits of the enterprise are Women—prompt, active, energetic, systematic, wise & far seeing in their deliberations, & vigorous to execute their plans, and the whole crowned with Woman's sympathy for the sick & wounded, they are going to place this great North West of ours, high up in the Temple of Fame."

By far the most significant of the war material of this collection is concerned with the draft. In 1864 and 1865 Mr. Baker was in the office of the provost marshal at Milwaukee and appears to have preserved some of the official papers addressed to Captain Irving M. Bean as well as to himself. There were accusations of unfairness on the part of some commissioners, which were repudiated by General Arthur McArthur and others in authority. The bulk of the papers relates to exemptions for age, disability, dependents, and noncitizenship. Communities were active in filling their quota of volunteers to avoid the draft and raised large sums for bounties. A constant source of complaint and misunderstanding was the assignment of the local quotas. Some of the local communities formed Draft Clubs which promised to supply the number of drafted men required from their numbers by consent and agreement. The pressure of the draft was felt as a heavy burden to be lightened by volunteering. There was some fraud and chicanery reported; the letters of informers are unpleasant reading.

Mr. Baker left the draft office at Milwaukee in May, 1865; soon after his departure the office was closed. With the exception of the railway projects of the early seventies already mentioned, he seems to have lived thereafter in retirement. His death occurred at Lake Geneva February 5, 1872. One of his latest tasks was to revise for the Historical Society a paper on the "Pioneer History of Walworth County," which

he had originally read at an old settlers' society reunion in 1869. This work is published in the sixth volume of our *Collections*. Mr. Baker's portrait was presented to the Society in 1878 by his widow. It is fitting therefore that this Society should be the repository of the papers of this pioneer; and it is so recognized by his grandson, Edward Larrabee Baker of Lake Forest, Illinois, who has preserved this series of early papers and in February, 1920 gave it to the Society for the benefit of the public.

LOUISE P. KELLOGG

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Major General William G. Haan ("The Division as a Fighting Machine") was the commanding officer of the Thirty-second or "Red Arrow" Division in the Great War. The paper we have the privilege of printing is the address which he gave before the annual meeting of the Society in October, 1919.

Dr. Joseph Schafer ("Muscoda, 1763-1856" and "The Wisconsin Domesday Book") the new superintendent of the Society, comes to us from Oregon where he was head of the history department in the state university. Born in Grant County, he is making a series of local studies of that locality; he is also planning a forward movement in collecting basic sources for Wisconsin history.

Julius E. Olson ("Lincoln in Wisconsin") is professor of Scandinavian languages and literature at the University of Wisconsin. He is editor of the first volume in the *Original Narratives of Early American History* reproduced under the auspices of the American Historical Association.

W. A. Titus ("Historic Spots in Wisconsin: IV. The Battle of Wisconsin Heights") of Fond du Lac gives us the fourth of his series of Wisconsin sites noted for their historical interest.